

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4339

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3058

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 410 DTD 27 FEB 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MADRAS PRESS REPORTS JAYAKODY CHARGE OF DMK-FP CONTACTS

1. HINDU FEBRUARY 27 REPORTS COLOMBO PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MEA MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY THAT "THEIR SUSPICION THAT SOUTH INDIAN DMK LEADERS HAD CLOSE CONTACTS WITH FEDERAL PARTY LEADERS OF SRI LANKA HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BEYOND DOUBT BY THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER MRS. INDIRA GANDHI WHEN SHE ADDRESSED A MASS MEETING AT MADRAS." THE BRIEFER STORY IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WITH K. NADARAJAH'S BYLINE, TAKES A DIFFERENT TACK BY SAYING THAT "SOME TAMIL FEDERAL PARTY LEADERS IN SRI LANKA HAVE HAD CONNECTIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH FORMER TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI AND OTHER DMK LEADERS," ACCORDING TO JAYAKODY. JAYOKODY IS ALSO REPORTED AS CHARGING THAT SOME CHILDREN OF LEADING TAMIL FEDERAL PARTY MEMBERS WERE NOW IN INDIA AND TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES DETRIMENTAL TO SRI LANKA. THEY WERE CARRYING ON PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

2. WE FIND VERY LITTLE IN MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS IN MADRAS TO
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SUPPORT THE HINDU VERSION OF JAYAKODY'S STATEMENT. AS FAR AS

WE CAN DETERMINE, MRS. GANDHI'S ONLY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THIS SUBJECT WAS THE FOLLOWING: "SINCE I HAVE SPOKEN OF THEIR LEADER ANNADURAI, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ONE MORE THING ABOUT HIM. SOME OF THE DMK PEOPLE WERE MAKING IRRESPONSIBLE REMARKS ABOUT OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR SRI LANKA. BUT AFTER I EXPLAINED THE COMPLICATIONS TO MR. ANNADURAI HE UNDERSTOOD IT AND FROM THEN ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIM AND SRI LANKA WERE GOOD."

3. SRI LANKA DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER KODIKARA TOLD ME THIS AFTERNOON HE ALSO FINDS NOTHING IN MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS IN MADRAS TO SUPPORT THE HINDU VERSION OF THE STORY. KODIKARA SAYS JAYAKODY BELIEVES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL PARTY AND THE DMK AND THAT THE DMK HAS BEEN PROTECTING SOME FEDERAL PARTY POLITICIANS. JAYAKODY REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME EARLIER, I.E., THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMINAL ACTS IN CEYLON WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN SHELTER IN TAMIL NDAU, BUT HE REPEATED HIS OWN BELIEF THAT THIS PROTECTION HAS NOT COME FROM REGULAR DMK CADRES BUT FROM PEOPLE ON THE PERIPHERY (MADRAS 382). HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO SPECIFICALLY THE "CHILDREN OF LEADING TAMIL FEDERAL PARTY MEMBERS" REFERRED TO BY JAYAKODY WERE.

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UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, PARTY LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE03058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0931
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603107/aaaadqzf.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MADRAS PRESS REPORTS JAYAKODY CHARGE OF DMK-FP CONTACTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CE, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (JAYAKODY, LAKSHMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006